

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

FEBRUARY 6, 1860.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. POWELL made the following

REPORT.

[To accompany Bill S. 124.]

*The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the petition of Nancy M. Gunsally, formerly widow of Lyman M. Richmond, deceased, report:*

That the petitioner's husband, Lyman M. Richmond, volunteered in the United States service during the war with Mexico, and served in company G, Michigan volunteers, for the period of one year; that while in the service he contracted chronic diarrhœa, of which he died soon after his discharge. The evidence of his previous robust health and excellent habits is full and complete. An officer of the regiment, though not of the company, testifies that he saw Richmond at Vera Cruz extremely ill, and that he did not expect him to live. He did, however, so far recover as to return home in feeble health, and shortly after died.

The proof is full and complete that he died on the 27th September, 1848, of disease contracted while in actual service in Mexico. The marriage of the petitioner with the said Lyman M. Richmond is fully established by the evidence.

It appears further from the evidence that the petitioner married one Gunsally, after the death of her first husband, and that from circumstances, which reflect no discredit upon her, she was compelled by self-respect and her obligations to the children of her first husband to obtain a divorce from said Gunsally.

By a special act of Congress, approved August 18, 1856, the petitioner was allowed a pension for five years from January 1, 1849, at the rate of ninety-six dollars per annum, or eight dollars per month, which pension she received. She is not entitled to the renewal of half-pay for life under the act of June 3, 1858, as she was not allowed half-pay under the special act, but full pay as the widow of a musician, that is eight dollars per month. She asks for half-pay pension from January 1, 1854, when her former pension expired, in such manner and upon such terms as are set forth in the act of June 3, 1858. The petitioner has already received an amount of pension equal to the half-pay of a musician for ten years from January 1, 1849, to January 1, 1859. We are of opinion that the petitioner is entitled to half-pay pension

for life, commencing from January 1, 1859. She is in needy circumstances, and compelled to support herself and the two young children of Richmond, deceased, the soldier for whose service she claims, by her own industry. We report a bill for her relief, and ask the favorable action of the Senate.